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## AA building - 40 years after being opened by the Queen

# HOUSE PARTY!



• (Above) The Queen at the launch of Fanum House. (Bottom right) The building as it stands today.  
(Top right) How the building looked in 1973.

By **James Booker**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

A FAMILIAR part of the Basingstoke landscape has celebrated its 40th birthday this week.

Fanum House, the Basingstoke headquarters of the AA, was opened by the Queen on November 19, 1973.

The £4.5million building, which is the second-tallest in Basingstoke, stands at 18 storeys (274 feet), and is recognisable for its distinctive net of aluminium fins.

Fanum House currently houses 936 workers, and was the original shift in AA headquarters after they moved out of their Leicester Square building.

And staff have fond memories of the historic day.

Jan Archer, AA finance administrator, said: "The day before we were told that the Queen would be visiting our office to see the membership records of other members of the Royal Family.

"We were also shown the correct way to curtsy and had to keep

• Continued on page 2



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# Residents to have say on bus routes

**RESIDENTS of Whitechurch and the surrounding areas will be asked about potential changes to community bus services.**

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) are currently reviewing bus services that are not used often, are expensive to run or not addressing communities' needs.

The move follows the council's consultation on all subsidised bus routes earlier this year, which attracted 1,600 responses from bus users.

The services in question are the 154 between Stratfield Saye

By James Booker

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and Reading, the Whitechurch Community Bus and the circular 21 to 24, from areas north of the borough to Newbury.

One proposal for the Whitechurch Community Bus is to combine the route with a new route linking Whitechurch to Basingstoke. Options for changing the 154 include pointing the route towards Basingstoke shopping centre and rail station, potentially serving more villages like

Old Basing, Chineham, Monk Sherborne, Bramley and Pound Green.

Savings would be made through incorporating either or both the Stoney Heath and Old Basing Taxi share schemes to provide a connection into Basingstoke.

The council are considering keeping the 21 and 22 service as it is, and making the 23 and 24 an 'on-demand' service, or alternatively extending the 21 and 22 service to cover Sydmonton and Ecchinswell.

BDBC's cabinet member for Partnerships, Councillor Cathy Osselton, said: "People living in

more rural areas of the borough need access to public transport to stop them from being isolated or cut off from community facilities. This is why, over the years, the borough council has picked up the costs of services that it felt were vital to bring public transport to areas of the borough where communities would not get a commercial service. We hope that people living in these communities will give us their thoughts."

The consultation is running until December 13. More information is available on the council's website.



• Staff in 1970s gear for the anniversary celebrations.

## Getting in the groove with that 70s look!

• From front page practising until we got it right, which was hilarious for some of us 16-year-olds.

"Everyone crowded round and watched her tour on big old-fashioned TVs hung from the ceiling."

David Last, AA finance specialist, remembers seeing the Queen in the restaurant on her tour:

"There was a buzz around the place, as it was a big occasion, not only for the AA but for the town too."

"It really helped put Basingstoke on the map."

AA president Edmund King added: "When the Queen opened Fanum House on November 19, 1973, it was the start of a long association with Basingstoke

that continues to this day.

"Fanum House has long been a local landmark and we are delighted to be celebrating 40 years in the town."

The AA currently has headquarters in Newcastle, Cardiff, Preston, Cheadle in Cheshire and Oldbury in the West Midlands. To celebrate the occasion, the AA held a 1970s-themed day

for its employees.

Staff dressed in outfits from the era in aid of the AA's local charity of the year - Basingstoke-based cancer charity RadCan - and had a celebratory afternoon tea.

Some of the AA's 1970s patrol vehicles were on display and the company will later bury a time capsule to mark 40 years of the building.

## Praise for young interpreters

A PIONEERING Hampshire project aimed at helping children whose first language is not English settle at school, promoting inclusion and overcoming prejudice, is a double winner!

Hampshire Young Interpreters, developed by Hampshire County Council's Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS), in partnership with schools, was the overall winner of the Guardian Public Services Awards 2013 and winner of the 'Grassroots Excellence' category at a ceremony in London last week.

Judges paid tribute to the contribution the scheme makes to breaking down barriers for children whose first language is not English, and the way in which the scheme contributes to better understanding and tolerance in the wider community.

Presenting the award, David Brindle, the Guardian's public services editor said: "It is making a priceless contribution to social cohesion".

## Big Switch On

FESTIVAL Place Shopping Centre is kicking off the festive countdown on Friday with fireworks and live entertainment at its traditional Christmas Lights Switch On event.

Hampshire's largest shopping destination has a jam-packed line-up to warm up the crowds as they gather to mark the start of the festive season.

The evening will be bursting with vocal talent including a special performance from this year's Festival Factor winning duo James Mitchell and Kayleigh Burton as well as a guest appearance from Britain's Got Talent star Lauren Thalia.

Stephen Connolly, Festival Place centre director, said: "Festival Place's Christmas Light Switch On is one of our biggest events in the calendar and this year's line-up is our best yet."

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# Police crack down on rural crime in region

**POLICE** in Basingstoke and north Hampshire are adopting a new approach in tackling rural crime.

A special taskforce has been set up as part of Operation Osprey, to investigate cross-border, rural and crime series offences.

Crimes targeted involve hare

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

coursing and poaching, while officers can seize dogs they suspect of being used in such offences.

Warrants have been executed across the region, and a 47-year-old woman, arrested in South Ham, is on bail after being charged with receiving stolen goods.

Chief Superintendent Jason Hogg, the force's strategic lead on rural policing, said: "We are determined to not only target those who commit these crimes but reduce opportunities for crime to take place and make it a hostile environment for travelling criminals."

"We will use the full range of tactics available to us to target and disrupt individuals and groups who clearly demonstrate a propensity for criminality and target vulnerable areas."

"Our communities are vital in helping us tackle crime. They are our eyes and ears and know the areas in which they live."

"By encouraging them to report any suspicious activity when they see it, we can respond to their concerns and work with them to make their communities even safer."

Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Hayes said: "I made a commitment to develop my policy on how crime issues that affect rural commu-

nities can best be addressed.

"I have seen first hand the efforts being made to achieve these goals to keep rural communities safer. I would add however, that police officers cannot do this alone. It requires the support of rural communities to work with them in partnership by keeping the police updated on what is happening within their neighbourhoods."

Hugh Oliver-Bellasis, chairman of the force's strategic Independent Advisory Group, said: "Hampshire Constabulary has made reducing rural crime a top priority."

"They have made big improvements over the last three years. We look forward to working with the police to help them achieve greater success."

The task force will be led by Detective Inspector Justin Turgout.

## News Bites

### See anything?

WERE you in the Chineham area on November 6? Did you notice anyone acting suspiciously?

A house in Reading Road was broken into and an iPod and iPad were stolen. It happened between 8.35am and 4.30pm.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact PC Dave Catchpole at Basingstoke Police Station on 101.

### House burgled

POLICE are appealing for information about a burglary at a house in Hamble Court, Basingstoke.

It happened between 3.15pm on November 10 and 7pm on November 14 and a Samsung laptop was stolen.

Were you in the area at the time? Did you see anything? Call 101 with any information.

### Great feedback

A SURVEY asking for feedback on the NHS' non-emergency transport services has received a large number of responses, and the results will now be used to tailor parts of the service.

Over 100 people responded with a mixture of praise and criticism, with themes including the timing of transport, friendliness of drivers and knowledge of the service being available in the area.

Dr Mike Johns, representing the seven clinical commissioning groups, said: "We are delighted that so many people took the opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions."

## Santas swap reindeer for running shoes!



• Sebastian's Action Trust are hoping for hundreds of Santas to run and raise money for the charity

BASINGSTOKE-BASED children's charity Sebastian's Action Trust is staging a Santa Fun Run next month, to raise money for seriously ill children in North Hampshire.

The 7km run takes place in Virginia Water, Surrey, on December 8, and those taking part are encouraged to dress up as Santa to raise funds for the charity's new respite holiday home.

Jane Gates, CEO of Sebastian's Action Trust, said: "We would love everyone in the local area to join in including businesses, schools, families, social groups, local firemen and everyone that possibly can."

"Sebastian's Action Trust is such an amazing charity and the families of seriously ill children we help are so deserving, with all the money raised at the Santa Fun Run going

to help these families in their time of need."

The route goes around the scenic Virginia Water Lake on the Crown Estate, close to the Wentworth golf course.

Registration starts from 9am, with the warm-up at 9.30am and the start of the race at 10am. For more information, go to [www.sebastiansaction-trust.org/santarun](http://www.sebastiansaction-trust.org/santarun).

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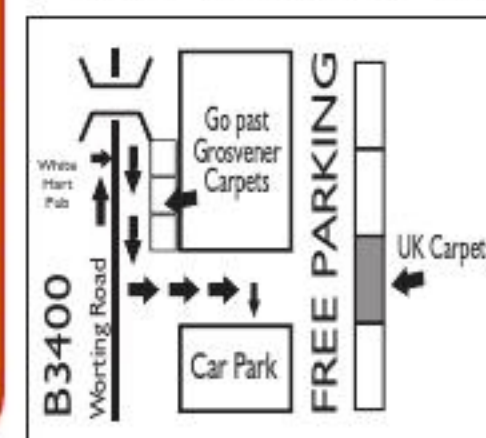


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# Group still fighting as Deeside decision due

THE future of a Basingstoke care home could have a clearer outlook by tomorrow.

Deeside care home in South Ham has been recommended for closure by county council chiefs, along with two other care homes in the area.

Campaigners have been fighting tooth and nail to keep the home open, and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council wrote to their counterparts at HCC to suggest they should not close the home.

The recommendations go before a county council Safe and Healthy People Select Committee, before a final HCC cabinet meeting decides its fate on December 9.

The director of adult services at the council, Gill Duncan, recommended closure due to "the availability of good quality alternative accommodation".

However, the closure of Deeside should be delayed, according to Ms Duncan, until the specialist wing, currently being built at Oakridge House, is open - expected around autumn next year.

Cllr Roy Perry, leader of Hampshire County Council, said: "We

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

are very sensitive to the fact that we are talking about people's homes, and our priority remains the care and wellbeing of the care home residents.

"Regardless of the decision that cabinet may make on December 9, we will ensure that residents and their relatives continue to be fully supported by our highly experienced care staff.

"It is essential that we continue to meet the needs of people with different levels of care requirements.

"What we must achieve is having the right balance of care services for the future, from nursing and residential care, to Extra Care and care at home."

"The care of older people is of the utmost importance to us and it is clear from the responses we have received that the Hampshire community feels the same.

"The cabinet at its meeting will pay attention to the views of the select committee for its assessment of whether the recommendations they consider, take into account all the relevant factors, in order to ensure the delivery of quality care, fit for the 21st century."

## Sex offender with ties to the borough is still missing...



A KNOWN sex offender from Basingstoke is still wanted by police after he went missing last week.

Phillip Neville, 64, failed to comply with police requirements, which said to notify them if he changed his address.

He was last known to be living in Hook or Basingstoke, but it is believed he may also have links to Bournemouth.

Officers have conducted extensive enquiries to try and locate Neville and are appealing for the public's help in finding him.

Neville is described as white, of a heavy build and has grey hair.

PC Tony Goodridge said: "If you know where Mr Neville is or have any information which may help us track him down, please get in contact as soon as possible."

Anyone with any information is asked to contact PC Goodridge at Aldershot Police Station on 101 or Crimestoppers 0800 555111.

• Phillip Neville is wanted by police

### News Bites

#### Police chat

HAMPSHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Hayes, hosted a live webchat yesterday afternoon as part of his public engagement and consultation programme.

It is hoped the move will become a more regular occurrence as a way of bringing public issues about crime in the county to light.

Mr Hayes said: "I hope to provide more people with the chance to talk to me about what matters most to them."

#### Drink awareness

HAMPSHIRE County Council are encouraging more people to watch what they drink, as part of Alcohol Awareness Week this week.

During this year's campaign, people who drink alcohol daily are being advised to give alcohol a break for a couple of days a week.

One in four of Hampshire's population - around 257,000 people - is estimated to drink more than the safe recommended levels for alcohol each week.

As a result, the county council, on behalf of the Hampshire Alcohol Partnership, is encouraging people to start to talk about alcohol and to think about how they can reduce their drinking.

Cllr Liz Fairhurst, executive member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, said: "It's easy to open a bottle of wine with dinner or enjoy a cold beer or two from the fridge."

"But these daily habits can mean we are drinking more than or over the recommended levels leading to long-term health problems."

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# Mayor wants 'true spirit of the season'

BASINGSTOKE mayor Cllr Dan Putty is hoping to get everybody in the Christmas spirit, as he hosts his charity Christmas show at St Michael's Church on December 7 to raise money for a bumper amount of good causes.

The show will involve performers of all ages and styles from the church, as well as youngsters from Merton Infant School, Overton Choral Society and Theatre 4 Kids.

Gaiger Trust winners for 2013 Edward Hill and Chloe O'Donnell will also be playing a flute duet on the night, while Hannah Crowdy

By Adam Flinn

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

will perform an oboe solo.

Cllr Putty said: "I really want this to be a celebration of Christmas and give people an enjoyable evening with a chance for them to sing some well-loved carols.

"But it also is a great opportunity to showcase the talented performers in the borough.

"In the true spirit of the season, we'll be supporting charities doing really good work in our communities by raising as much money as

possible."

Concert-goers will also be able to join the mayor for a glass of mulled wine or a soft drink and a mince pie before the concert, in exchange for a donation to his charity appeal.

Proceeds will be distributed between Sebastian's Action Trust – Bluebells, and a community foundation trust.

The show starts at 7.30pm, with tickets costing £7 for adults and £5 for children.

They can be bought in advance from The Willis Museum, or on the night at the door. For more details, go to [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/mayor](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/mayor) or phone 01256 844244.



ACCESS Self Storage Basingstoke has started to see the first donations for Frimley Park Hospital F1 Children's Ward following the launch of their Christmas charity appeal 2013.

New and unused presents, games and toys have been appearing at the Basingstoke store in Rankine Road.

Access Self Storage Basingstoke store manager, Duncan Robson said: "Last year was such a success as we had over 100 donations.

"This year we hope that the public will get behind us to support such a great local charity and beat last year's total.

"Please, please donate now to the appeal so we can really make a difference to children this Christmas."

A representative from Frimley Park said: "We are grateful that Access Self Storage in Basingstoke has chosen the Children's Ward at Frimley Hospital for their Christmas Toy donation appeal this year.

"We look forward to the opportunity of working with Access once again, following the success of the toy appeal two years ago, which enabled each child to receive a present on Christmas morning."

• Donations have poured in

## Schools to back young entrepreneurs

THREE Basingstoke schools are taking part in a county-wide initiative to promote the work of budding entrepreneurs.

The Vyne Community School, Bishop Challenger and Everest Community Academy are three of 20 schools in Hampshire to have signed up to the Innovating for the Future programme, run by the county council.

The schools will be visited by local business people to give tips on developing ideas and starting up companies of their own.

Hampshire County Council's executive member for Economy, Transport and Environment, Councillor Seán Woodward, said: "Driving up rates of entrepreneurship in the county will really help stimulate Hampshire's economy and what better way of doing this than inspiring our next generation.

"With schools no longer required to provide work-related learning, the programme will help increase the awareness of self-employment as a real option for young people when they are facing an ever-increasing competitive job market."

The programme will also help teachers increase their awareness of local enterprise, to enable them to better engage students thinking about business as a future career.

**Do you have a  
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## News Bites

## Tool thefts

POWER tools worth more than £3,000 have been stolen from three addresses in Little London. The thefts took place between November 16 and 18.

Elsewhere, a chainsaw and a hedge trimmer were stolen from a Ford Transit Tipper van parked in Monkswood Crescent, Tadley, overnight on November 17.

The chainsaw is orange and a Husqvarna petrol-driven model. The hedge trimmer is also petrol-driven and is a red Stihl model. Contact PC Joel Baker at Basingstoke Police Station on 101.

## Police appeal

POLICE are looking for a red SEAT Leon, stolen from a house in Tadley earlier this week. The car, registration LF52 WDL, was stolen from outside a house in Farringdon Way, Tadley, overnight on Sunday.

A motorbike has also been stolen in Tadley – the red CK 125cc model, registration RX11 4QL, was taken from outside a house on Priors Road on November 8. It has since been recovered, but police are still enquiring as to its disappearance.

## Burglary in town

POLICE are appealing for witnesses and information about a burglary in Bartok Close, Basingstoke.

The incident happened between 5.20pm and 10pm on November 15. Offenders broke into the house and stole three watches and two pairs of Ray Ban sunglasses.

# Pledge support for White Ribbon Day

**SINGER** Shelley Preston, formerly of Bucks Fizz, will be encouraging everyone to pledge support for national White Ribbon Day on Monday.

Shelley, the patron of local domestic abuse charity Taking Steps Project, will make several personal appearances at charity events in Basingstoke.

Domestic abuse statistics show that 70 per cent of incidents result in injury, and on average, two women in England and Wales are killed by a partner every week and one man every three weeks.

Karen Evans, chair of North East Hants Domestic Abuse Forum, said: "White Ribbon Day is an excellent way to raise awareness of domestic abuse through encouraging people to wear a visible sign that they will never commit, condone or remain silent about violence to women."

"Sadly many people live in fear within their own homes and close relationships and this can impact on all areas of their life."

Gerrie Jordan, of the Taking Steps Project, said: "Domestic abuse can affect us all in dif-

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

ferent ways and men are also victims.

"We are all likely to know someone who is suffering, as victims keep the secret to themselves and are often ashamed."

"We at Taking Steps Project open our doors to help, support and advice for those who are affected by domestic abuse."

A charity five-a-side football tournament is planned at Powerleague, Brighton Hill Community College on Sunday.

An information stand will be available in The Malls in Basingstoke and on Monday, selling white ribbons and offering literature and support.

Female victims can call Women's Aid on 0808 200 0247, male victims can call the Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327.

Same-sex victims can call Broken Rainbow on 0300 999 5428 and anyone worried about their own abusive or controlling behaviour can call Respect on 0808 802 4040.

## Pink Day raises funds for breast cancer



**STAFF at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) baked up a storm in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer last month - raising almost £1,500.**

Pink events took place at both the Aldermaston site and its sister site in Burghfield, West Berkshire, raising a total of £1,469.17 in the fight against breast cancer.

Volunteers enjoyed the event dressing head-to-toe in pink for the drive.

Executive PA, Caroline Mills who organised the event at AWE Aldermaston, was delighted with the support she received from colleagues in support of the charity.

Caroline said: "I have supported Breakthrough for a number of

years after losing two friends at a young age to breast cancer.

"Unfortunately there is not enough awareness out there about this dreadful disease for both men and women."

"It is important to fully support these events whenever we can and I am very grateful to everyone who supported our cake sale."

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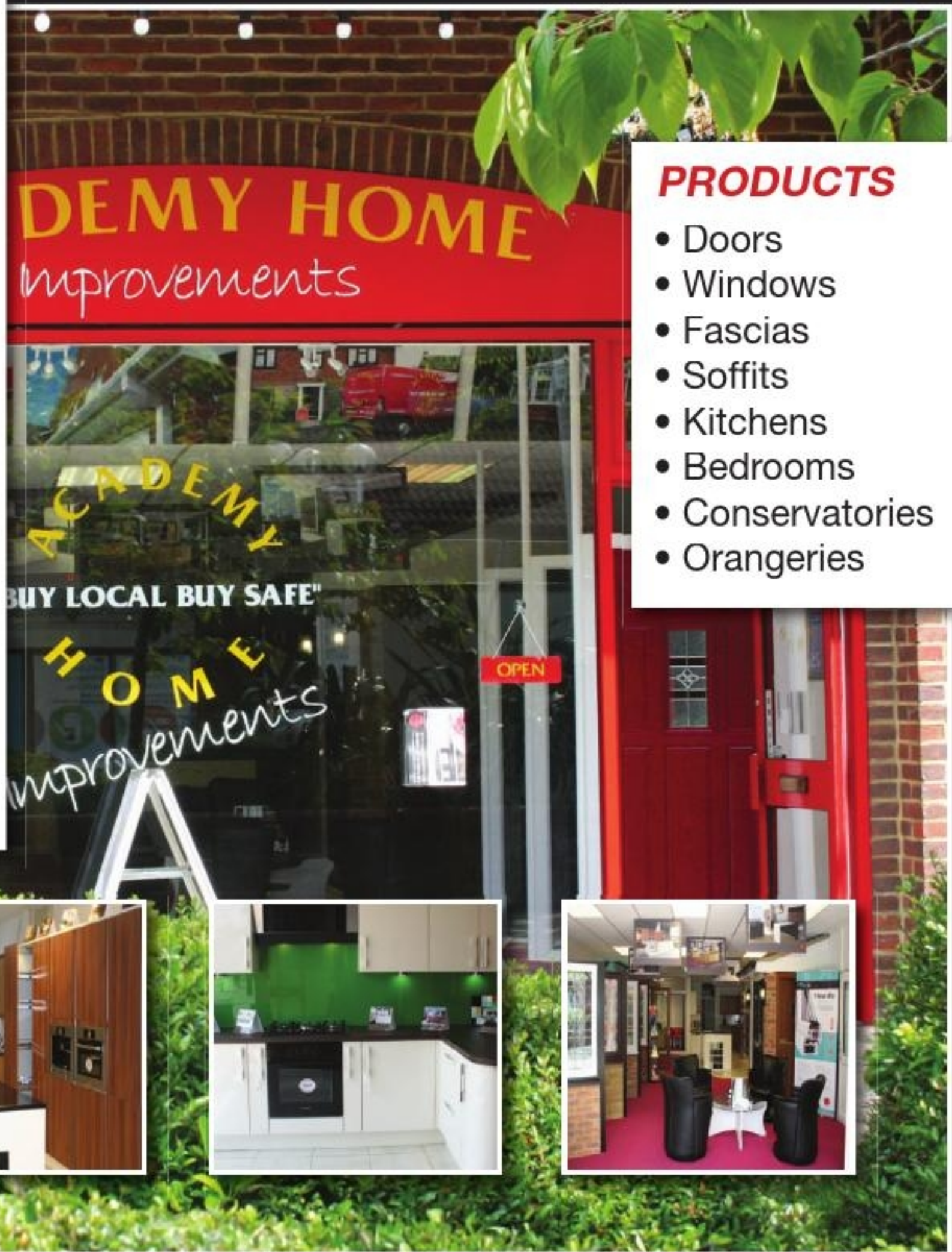
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“Andy Smith, MD of Academy Home Improvements, says “the new branding is to enable us to promote ourselves more easily as a company that provides a wide range of quality home improvements products”.

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The new Basingstoke showroom is the first to be refurbished under the company's new name. Academy Home Improvements offer a fantastic product range which includes kitchens, bedrooms, conservatories, orangeries, and doors plus double and triple-glazed windows. For more information please visit [www.academyhome.co.uk](http://www.academyhome.co.uk) or be one of the first to call into the new showroom.

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## News Bites

## College donation

A COMPANY has donated equipment funds to Alton College ahead of the opening of its new engineering and design centre.

UK South Engineers has donated the funds to the college, which will open its Sonardyne Centre for Engineering and Design Technology building at the end of the month.

The college's fundraising appeal manager, Karen Betancourt-Jess, said: "Raising the funds to purchase all the high-tech equipment is an ongoing process and we hope that other local companies will decide that our project is worth their support too."

# Borough braced for cold weather to come

**BASINGSTOKE residents are now battling the onset of winter, as colder weather hits the region.**

With this colder weather comes the risk of ice on the roads, but local authorities insist they are prepared for what lies ahead.

Hampshire County Council has 16,000 tonnes of gritting salt in stock, with 60 lorries on hand to tackle potentially dangerous

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

road surfaces.

County chiefs also insist they will regularly top up the 3,000 community grit bins, and 120 farmers are on stand-by with snow ploughs.

The council will be assisted

by term highways maintenance partner Amey.

HCC executive member for Economy, Transport and Environment, Councillor Sean Woodward, said: "After the harsh conditions of the last three years we are ready to face the oncoming winter months."

"We are committed to making sure, as far as possible, that people can access health services;

get to work, school and the shops during freezing temperatures.

"However, we all have a part to play in keeping Hampshire's roads moving, and I would ask people to always consider if their journey is essential during bad weather, to drive according to the conditions and to remember that even if a road surface looks black it does not mean it is free of ice."

The roads are treated on a priority basis - with routes receiving the most attention including A roads, some B roads, major bus routes, roads to emergency services, large schools and public transport areas.

Stephen Munro, Amey's busi-

ness director, said, "We have more than 30 new vehicles in our winter fleet this year, which is part of our commitment to invest in the best machinery and technology for Hampshire's roads."

"Our winter planning started six months ago and staff are now on standby around the clock until next spring."

"As well as a full salt barn, the community salt bins are being stocked up so people can help themselves during cold snaps, particularly in communities that are not on salting routes."

During last year's freeze, the council spread a total of 24,500 tonnes of salt in 110 full salting runs.

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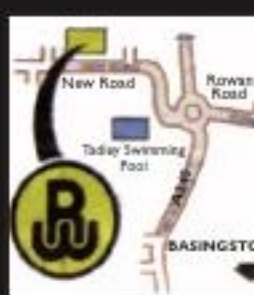
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## Cash theft pair are wanted by police



POLICE are appealing for the public's help in tracing two men wanted after cash was stolen from the till of a Basingstoke shop.

It is believed the men bought several low-value items from the Tesco Express in Kempshott with a large bank note on October 23.

The men then tried to confuse the cashier, and one of them stole £30 from the till.

PC Richard Harrison said: "It is believed there were other people in the store at the time who may have seen these men, the theft itself, or them leaving the store in a hurry."

"If you know anything, please contact me."

## News Bites

## Free parking

FREE car parking will be available throughout Hart District Council car parks on December 7 - the UK's Small Business Saturday.

The council is providing the free service to encourage people in the district to visit other towns and villages they might not go to during their regular shopping trips.

Cllr Jonathan Glen, cabinet member for Environment, said: "We are delighted to offer this free facility, not only to all residents of Hart, but to encourage people to visit our towns and villages on the day."

## Let's get active!

FAMILIES with young children will be encouraged to get active in the New Year with the launch of a healthy lifestyle programme at Basingstoke Sports Centre.

From January 21, families with children aged five to seven can take part in the Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do it! (MEND) programme - developed by child health experts and funded by Hampshire County Council.

The free 10-week course encourages children to eat more healthily, while parents can learn ways to encourage healthy behaviour.

For information, visit [www.mendcentral.org](http://www.mendcentral.org).

**Do you have a story to share with our readers?**

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## News Bites

## In it to win it

ST Michael's Hospice has announced the winners of its draw from November 15.

First prize of £1,000 is awarded to ticket 22814 of Up Nately and Hook ticket 52101 claims second prize of £100.

Third prize of £50 goes to 47573 of Old Basing, and fourth prize of £20 goes to 87476 of Basingstoke.

Sixteen prizes of £5 are awarded to tickets 00168, 01460, 01474, 02601, 08293, 14717, 31211, 31876, 37854, 39737, 39748, 40943, 42893, 62019, 64384 and 71715.

## Fundraising blitz

A CHARITY who campaign for seriously ill children are having a fundraising blitz later this month at a Basingstoke care home.

The newly-opened Pemberley House care home, on Grove Road, North Waltham, will be the venue for The Bluebells' charity extravaganza made up of a jazz spectacular and Christmas Fayre on November 29 and 30.

For ticket information, call 01256 632000.

## Bicycle thefts

TWO bikes have been stolen from a garage in Basingstoke, after thieves sawed their way in.

THE incident took place at a property in Monarch Close, Basingstoke, between November 6 and 7.

If you know anything, call PC Ed Tyrie at Basingstoke Police Station on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

# Rewarding those who give youth a chance

**INDIVIDUALS and organisations that help young people find a way into employment were honoured at a special awards ceremony on Tuesday night.**

The Skillstree Awards, an initiative of education charity Basingstoke Consortium, rewards people who put time and effort into supporting young people as they look to enter working life.

Basingstoke Mayor, Councillor Dan Putty, hosted the evening at the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council chambers on London Road.

Cllr Putty said: "In an increasingly competitive world, it is so important that young people gain access to the world of work and positive role models as early as possible."

"Skillstree is one example of a local project that does just that and I am pleased to have supported the awards."

Categories in the awards are student of the year, business ambassador of the year, teacher's award, business involved in work experience and business supporting enterprise and work-related learning.

The awards were launched last year.

Sue Riley, Basingstoke Consortium CEO, added: "The awards were created to showcase the incredible talent of the hundreds

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

of individuals who volunteer or work with us every year to help young people learn more about the world of work.

"They also recognise some of the many inspiring young people who are involved in our projects."

Peter Davison, executive director of event sponsors Visa Europe, added: "The initiative has helped us to create links with local schools and colleges, and we are proud to extend those links in order to support the community."

"Through our partnership with the Basingstoke Consortium we hope to play our part in developing tomorrow's workforce."

Basingstoke Consortium, set up in 1986, works annually with over 700 local businesses and 4,000 young people aged five to 24.

**Do you have a story to share with our readers?**

Contact the Newsdesk on  
**01235 516930**

or email [news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

## The demolition of a Basing View 'eyesore'



• Cllr Ranil Jayawardena at the Scott House demolition

**THE demolition of a Basing View "eyesore" started last week, as part of the borough council's regeneration of Basingstoke town centre.**

Scott House has been empty since 2007, and has suffered frequent vandalism ever since.

The site is now being prepared for future development, as part of the £200million regeneration Basing View is currently undergoing.

Deputy leader of BDBC, Coun-

cillor Ranil Jayawardena, joined the demolition crew last Tuesday (November 12).

"I'm pleased another eyesore is going for good," he said. "The regeneration of Basing View is really gathering pace, and this is part of preparing the business area for its bright future."

"The demolition will not only help improve the image of the area, by removing a vacant and obsolete building in the short term, but will also offer a more

attractive 'blank canvas' for those wanting to move into the area."

"Our development partner Muse has already attracted John Lewis and Waitrose and knocking down this building shows other potential investors that we are taking a proactive approach to encouraging them to come here. It shows our commitment to creating a 21st century urban business area of regional significance."



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# Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts. If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at [adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk](mailto:adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk) or telephone 01235 516933

## A union of folk music

### Fascinating Aida

COMEDY trio Fascinating Aida appear at The Anvil tomorrow evening with 'Charm Offensive', the follow-on to their massively successful tour 'Cheap Flights'.

Made up of Dillie Keane, Adele Anderson and Liza Pullman, the trio once again present a selection of old and new songs to celebrate 30 years of being at the top of the cabaret tree.

Tickets for tomorrow's show cost £20.50 for a 7.30pm start. Go to [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk) or call 01256 844244 for more details.

### Come to Dolly's Xmas Market!

DOLLY'S Christmas Market, featuring a range of vintage clothing, accessories and gift ideas, is coming to Old Basing Village Hall this Saturday.

As well as shopping, there will also be a vintage beauty parlour, with all proceeds going to baby charity Tommy's. Go to [www.dollysvintage.co.uk](http://www.dollysvintage.co.uk) for more information.

By Adam Flinn

[adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk](mailto:adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk)

**SIX-PIECE** roots and folk band Southern Tenant Folk Union are in Basingstoke tomorrow, for a show at The Forge celebrating the release of their latest album 'Hello Cold Goodbye Sun'.

The critically acclaimed release is the group's fifth studio album since banjo player Pat McGarvey started up the band in 2006, and has seen a number of talented musicians perform in the group.

Their debut eponymous release came out in 2007, and was followed by 'Revivals, Rituals and Union Songs', 'The New Farming Scene' and 'Pencaitland'.

"The critical reaction seems to be building from album to album," said Pat. "Over the years, people have become aware of our music and pulled us out of the masses."

"Because we're independent, we don't have the giant advertising budgets, so it's harder for people to know about us until we've plugged them for a few years."

Tomorrow's show itself prom-



• Edinburgh-based group Southern Tenant Folk Union return to Basingstoke tomorrow evening

ises a mix of hits from their latest album and extensive back catalogue, and will be interspersed with stories and anecdotes from the band about their music.

"It's an informal atmosphere," Pat added. "We are engaging with the audience throughout, and then taking the music seriously when we play that."

"The bass player is off to one

side, and the rest of us play around one microphone at one constant level.

"We move forward and back depending on how loud each instrument needs to be for that particular song, but visually it's quite interesting to see the sound being created before your eyes."

Pat returns to Basingstoke

after previously living in the town as a teenager, attending Queen Mary's College for sixth form.

He said: "The last Basingstoke gig was sold out, it's a little space at The Forge. It's good to be back in the area."

The show starts at 7.45pm. For more information, go to [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk) or call 01256 844244.

### Magic and science

MAGIC meets science in a new unique show coming to the Bordon Phoenix on Saturday, to astound audiences with a mix of wizardry and science.

Hosted by Oliver Meech, 'When Magic and Science Collide' comes to Bordon following sell-out performances at Brighton Fringe, Oxford Fringe and Green Man Festival.

Tickets cost £10 for a 6pm start. For more information, call 01420 472664 or visit [www.phoenixarts.co.uk](http://www.phoenixarts.co.uk).

### Martyn Joseph

WELSH musician Martyn Joseph comes to Basingstoke's Central Studio on Saturday night, performing a mix of roots, rock, blues and jazz music during the evening.

Martyn has been in the industry for over 30 years, and has released 31 albums during that time along with winning the title of Best Male Artist in the BBC Welsh Music Awards.

The show starts at 8pm, with tickets costing £15. For booking details, go to [www.centralstudio.co.uk](http://www.centralstudio.co.uk) or phone 01256 418318.

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# Come & Meet Santa



# Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts. If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

## Get one out of here!

### The Manic Shine

LOCAL rock band The Manic Shine perform at The Sanctuary, Basingstoke, on Saturday, featuring their renowned guitar solos, time signature changes and heart-pounding groove.

Doors open at 8pm, and tickets cost £4.

Go to The Sanctuary's Facebook page for more details, at [www.facebook.com/sanctuaryliveuk](http://www.facebook.com/sanctuaryliveuk).

### Dr Who Day

BASINGSTOKE Discovery Centre is hosting a Dr Who Day on Saturday, to celebrate 50 years since the first episode of the hit TV series was broadcast.

Activities are based around a greenscreen workshop, allowing children to re-enact their favourite Dr Who scenes and download their clips after each session.

Three sessions are available during the day, for children aged between 5 and 13.

For more information, go to [www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc](http://www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc).

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A COMEDY adventure set in 18th century France comes to Central Studio tomorrow evening, in 'I'm An Aristocrat Get Me Out Of Here'.

Theatrical innovators Gonzo Moose re-invent the story of the Scarlet Pimpernel, based in Paris during the French Revolution.

The story follows an underground movement who are rescuing people that have been condemned to the guillotine, in particular the aristocrats.

It is performed by a cast of three, who take on multiple roles during the production with a range of elaborate costumes and witty scripts.

"It's going really well," said Gonzo Moose's artistic director Mark Dawson. "I think anyone with a silly, daft sense of humour will like it."

"The show is a swashbuckling comedy adventure set during revolutionary France, and it's a Scarlet Pimpernel spoof."

"The plot involves the head



• Three actors perform 20 roles in I'm An Aristocrat Get Me Out Of Here tomorrow

of the secret police, and it's his quest to bring down the underground movement and catch their leader."

Mark is a co-founder of Gonzo Moose, and has appeared in all of their shows to date.

This has included their productions of 'Grimm and Grimmer', 'Is That A Bolt In Your Neck?',

us we play about 20 different roles.

"The main one I play is King Louis XVI, who gets rescued from prison during the show."

Tickets cost £12, with the show starting at 7.30pm. For more information, go to [www.centralstudio.co.uk](http://www.centralstudio.co.uk) or phone 01256 418318.

### Bad Influence

ROCK and roll group Bad Influence, who have played alongside Status Quo in the past, perform as part of Weybrook Park Golf Club's 'Rock Night' tomorrow evening.

Made up of Val Cowell, Richard Hayes, Harry James and Pete Stroud, the group have released six albums and are considered by many to be one of the top acts in their field.

Entry is £5 per person, and visitors can turn up and pay on the night. For more information, visit [www.weybrookpark.co.uk](http://www.weybrookpark.co.uk).

### Ardal O'Hanlon

COMEDIAN and Father Ted star Ardal O'Hanlon presents his latest stand-up show at The Anvil on Wednesday, with his observational style on the subject of life itself.

Ardal's mild-mannered demeanour, coupled with his sometimes thoughtful and sometimes silly humour, has entertained audiences around the world.

Tickets cost £20 for an 8pm start. Go to [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk) or phone 01256 844244 for more details.

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CHILD (ON ICE).....£9.50

ADULT (OFF ICE).....£9.50

CHILD (OFF ICE).....£8.50

## SHOW TIMES: 2PM & 6PM

A special Planet Ice Christmas Show on Ice featuring local skaters, the show promises to be great festive fun for the entire family. Boxoffice Tel 01256 355 266

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**To 16 Dec 2013, 2pm - 4pm**  
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**To 3 Dec 2013, 7pm - 9pm**  
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**7941554108**

**22 Nov 2013, 7:30pm**  
**Central Studio Queen Mary's College**

## **I'M AN ARISTOCRAT, GET ME OUT OF HERE**

[www.centralstudio.co.uk](http://www.centralstudio.co.uk)

**22 Nov 2013, 7:30pm**  
**The Anvil**

**FASCINATING AIDA**  
01256 844244 [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk).

**23 Nov 2013, 3pm - 5pm**  
**Heath End Village Hall, Baughurst**  
**CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAYRE**  
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**23 Nov 2013, 8pm**  
**Central Studio Queen Mary's College**

## **MARTYN JOSEPH**

"Three decades and 31 albums on, Cardiff's charismatic and unstoppable Martyn Joseph (dubbed "The Welsh Springsteen") continues to garner fans everywhere with his uncanny melting pot of both robust and fragile material - roots to rock, blues to jazz, americana to folk.  
[www.centralstudio.co.uk](http://www.centralstudio.co.uk)

**23 Nov 2013**  
**Basingstoke Discovery Centre**  
**DR WHO STYLE GREEN-SCREEN WORKSHOP**

Children can discover the magic of greenscreen filming techniques by making a Dr Who inspired video clip in a group. 9am ages 5-10; 11am ages 8-12; 1pm ages 10-13, £5 per child.  
**01256 478670**

**23 Nov 2013, 7:45pm**  
**The Anvil**

## **MAHLER CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Beethoven's Piano Concerto no. 2 shows the young composer breaking away from Mozart's model into his own world of expression. No. 3 has a tense first movement, followed by a slow movement graced with eloquent dialogue between piano and woodwind instruments.  
**01256 844244 [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk).**

**23 Nov 2013, 8pm**  
**The Sanctuary**

**THE MANIC SHINE "WEIGHTLESS" TOUR**  
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[www.facebook.com/themanicshine/](http://www.facebook.com/themanicshine/)  
app\_123966167614127

**23 Nov 2013, 1:30pm - 4:30pm**  
**Chineham Scout Headquarters**  
**CHINEHAM WI CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**  
"Crafts, books, plants, cakes raffle and lucky dip. Ideas for Christmas  
**Lots of fun for all**

**24 Nov 2013, 12pm - 2pm**  
**Basingstoke Discovery Centre**  
**AROMATHERAPY FOR WOMEN**

Learn the principles of aromatherapy, recognise the benefits of usual essential oils and give/receive an aromatherapy hand massage. £6  
**01256 478670**

**27 Nov 2013, 8pm**  
**The Anvil**

**ARDAL O'HANLON**  
**01256 844244 [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk).**

**28 Nov 2013 - 8 Dec 2013**  
**The Haymarket**

## **THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

On the night before Christmas, Emily stares out of the window, hugs her teddy and waits excitedly for the morning, while in the corner a little mouse called Eddie can't understand why only humans are allowed to get presents. So he sets off in search of Father Christmas to find out for himself.  
**01256 844244 [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk)**

**28 Nov 2013, 2pm**  
**Basingstoke Discovery Centre**  
**A TALK BY ZAID MEHERALI: ARMED FORCES PHOTOGRAPHER**

Zaid has worked extensively with the armed forces and NATO: see some stunning images and hear the stories behind them.  
**FREE**  
**01256 478670**

**30 Nov 2013, 11am**  
**Central Studio Queen Mary's College**

## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING**

Here they come again, our best musical pirate friends, Alistair and Andy, The Rock 'n' Roll Pirates! They are bringing with them lots of pre-Christmas excitement, with a good mix of old and new songs to sing, or play along to.  
**Come dressed up in your best Christmas outfit and win a prize!**  
[www.centralstudio.co.uk](http://www.centralstudio.co.uk)

**30 Nov 2013, 8pm**  
**Central Studio Queen Mary's College**

## **PURPLE ZEPPELIN**

"Voted Best Tribute Act of 2012,  
[www.centralstudio.co.uk](http://www.centralstudio.co.uk)

**30 Nov 2013**  
**Farnham Maltings**

**THE BAD SHEPHERDS**  
ADRIAN EDMONDSON'S celebrated folk-punk outfit  
**01252 745 444**  
[www.farnhammaltings.com](http://www.farnhammaltings.com)

**30 Nov 2013, 1pm - 3pm**  
**Basingstoke Discovery Centre**  
**ENHANCE YOUR BEAUTY PRODUCTS WITH AROMATHERAPY**

Learn how to blend essential oils with ready made, unscented base products to enhance your own beauty products for friends and family. £6  
**01256 478670**

**30 Nov - 20 Dec 2013, 10am - 4:57pm**  
**Willis Museum, The Basingstoke Gallery**

## **THE GAZE**

A collection of artworks celebrating the female form by local digital artist Carlmaria Jackson.  
**07876744861 [www.carlmariajackson.com](http://www.carlmariajackson.com)**

**30 Nov 2013, 11am - 4pm**  
**Testbourne Community School, Whitchurch RG28 7JF**  
**TESTBOURNE GIFT & CRAFT FAIR**

We have over forty stalls offering a rich variety of gifts and hand-crafted items for sale. Come and be entertained with festive music and carols by the Testbourne Flute Choir and 'Bella Voce' while you browse around the lovely stalls or sit enjoy some refreshments. Music to start at approximately 11.30am.

The Whitchurch Carnival Queen, Carnival Princess and their attendants will be attending the fair from 11am and the Whitchurch Mayor John Clark and Mayoress Rosemary Crumplin will be visiting the fair from 11.30. Admission is 50p for adults, Senior Citizens and under 16 years free. All money raised by this fair will go towards the school's special projects for the benefit of all its pupils.  
**Please note that all the tables have been sold.**  
**01256 892350**

**30 Nov, 10am - 2pm**  
**Basingstoke**  
**INDIAN BREADS WORKSHOP**  
Learn how to make various authentic Indian breads to accompany your Indian meals. £30  
**7941554108**

**30 Nov, 10am - 12pm**  
**Pamber Heath Memorial Hall**  
**XMAS FETE**  
FREE entry. Refreshments available. Lots of stalls with great choice of goodies.

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[www.datedatedate.co.uk](http://www.datedatedate.co.uk)



# Christmas at The Haymarket...

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**Rebecca Wheatley (Casualty)**  
**David Callister and Richard Tate**



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**[www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk)**



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# Puzzles

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### Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

	7			4		9		6
				5	1	4	2	
8	5					7		3
9			6			8		
6	2		5		4		7	9
		3			2			1
2		1					8	5
	6	7	1	8				
4		9		6				3

	3	4		7		9	1	
1	6						8	5
4			3		7			6
	5						3	
7			8		5			9
3	7						2	1
	4	8		9		6	7	

1		2			4			
6	5				8		3	
				2		1		5
		3					4	8
5	4					2		
3		8		5				
	1		9				6	3
		7			8			9

### Two speed crossword

#### Quick Clues Across

- 1 Corrosive (7)
- 5 Occur again (5)
- 8 Pain (4)
- 9 Weight for athletes (8)
- 10 Tree (5,8)
- 13 Insect (4)
- 14 Always (4)
- 17 Questioning (13)
- 19 Vision (8)
- 20 Way out (4)
- 21 Examinations (5)
- 22 Plotter (7)

#### Quick Clues Down

- 2 Nautical securing device (6)
- 3 Relation (7)
- 4 Pointer (9)
- 5 Garments (5)
- 6 More pure (7)
- 7 Narrated (7)
- 11 Vigorous (9)
- 12 Threepronged implement (7)
- 13 Accumulates (7)
- 15 Utmost (7)
- 16 Courteous (6)
- 18 Destroys (5)

#### Cryptic Clues Across

- 1 Hold back the chorus (7)
- 5 Shapes the actors (5)
- 8 Lose one's step in the dance (4)
- 9 Somehow veins put years on face (8)
- 10 Reproducing for existence ends in scolding (13)
- 13 He has good taste (4)
- 14 Encourage 21 to lose his head (4)
- 17 With which the birdbrained housewife clears the house? (7,6)
- 19 Read aloud in part (8)
- 20 Tree in which you hear the sap rising (4)
- 21 Swell surgeon, who fails to get on (5)
- 22 Contrary to presentday poetry (7)

#### Cryptic Clues Down

- 2 Strays include alternative mistakes (6)
- 3 Drive back the enemy although about beat (7)
- 4 Fine fable beggars description (9)
- 5 Feature a type of porcelain (5)
- 6 Where one doesn't mind being stranded (7)
- 7 It sounds a trifling trick (7)
- 11 Would he never have behaved in cavalier fashion? (9)
- 12 Where the schoolboy betrays his friends (7)
- 13 Hear about the girl? Who? Erica! (7)
- 15 Sure to get movement (7)
- 16 It's about places in the races (6)
- 18 He gets a welcome lift (5)

1	2		3		4			5		6		7
8					9							
10								11				
12		13						14		15		
											16	
17				18								
19										20		
21								22				

### Scribble space

### Last week's solutions

3	9	7	6	5	2	8	1	4
6	2	1	7	4	8	3	5	9
5	4	8	9	1	3	6	2	7
2	6	9	4	3	7	1	8	5
7	1	5	8	2	9	4	3	6
8	3	4	1	6	5	9	7	2
1	7	2	3	9	4	5	6	8
4	5	3	2	8	6	7	9	1
9	8	6	5	7	1	2	4	3

3	4	5	9	6	1	8	2	7
8	2	7	4	3	5	9	1	6
6	9	1	8	7	2	3	4	5
2	7	8	5	4	3	1	6	9
4	5	3	1	9	6	2	7	8
9	1	6	2	8	7	4	5	3
7	8	2	3	5	4	6	9	1
1	6	9	7	2	8	5	3	4
5	3	4	6	1	9	7	8	2

5	6	3	1	4	2	7	9	8
2	4	9	7	8	6	5	3	1
7	8	1	3	9	5	4	6	2
8	3	5	2	1	9	6	4	7
9	2	4	6	7	8	3	1	5
1	7	6	4	5	3	8	2	9
3	5	7	9	2	4	1	8	6
6	1	2	8	3	7	9	5	4
4	9	8	5	6	1	2	7	3

#### Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Speaker 5 Treat 8 Fall 9 Opposite  
10 Unwillingness 13 Ogre 14 Vast 17 Investigating  
19 Roomiest 20 Sawn 21 Dusky 22 Prayers  
Down: 2 Plains Allying 4 Emollient 5 Thong 6 Evident  
7 Tresses 11 Navigator 12 Stirred 13 Obvious 15 Satisfy  
16 Answer 18 Slimy

#### Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Aridity 5 Based 8 Purr 9 Aquarium  
10 Thunderstorms 13 Seem 14 Atop 17 Praying mantis  
19 Stranger 20 Bear 21 Elder 22 Freshen  
Down: 1 Roughs 3 Derange 4 Tradesman 5 Blast  
6 Stirrup 7 Damasks 11 Stammerer 12 Impasse  
13 Starred 15 Omnibus 16 Pirate 18 Inner



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3

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# Competitions

## WIN Beaulieu Victorian Christmas tickets!

VisitEngland   
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2013  
**GOLD WINNER**



**THIS** Festive Season, between 21st December and 5th January 2014 Beaulieu will be offering a glimpse of Christmas Past in a Victorian country house.

Palace House, which has been the home of the Montagu family since 1538, is a place of enchantment at this special time of year. Children can delve into a 'Box of Delights' and dress up in period costumes while in the Lower Drawing Room there will be carol singing and musical entertainment for everyone to enjoy.

Visitors can talk to characters from Victorian times to discover what life was really like 'Upstairs and Downstairs' at Christmas time and warm themselves in front of the yule log in the hearth

**Closing date:**  
**Friday, December 6**

of the great fireplace while enjoying a glass of hot fruit punch. The splendid Victorian-style decorations around the house and the magnificent Christmas tree in the Upper Drawing Room will add to the flavour and charm of the season.

In the National Motor Museum, the Victorian theme continues as visitors can see what driving was really like in those early days. Don't miss the 'Wheels' pod-ride transporting you on a journey through one hundred years of motoring history.

It is also the last chance to see the museum's exciting BOND IN MOTION exhibition (closing on the 5th January), showcasing 50 original vehicles from the James Bond films. This is the largest exhibition of its kind to be staged anywhere in the world, and celebrates 50 years of the film franchise.

In the World of Top Gear Enormodrome you can watch exclusive footage from behind the scenes in the Top Gear production zones and see actual cars from some of the most ambitious challenges.

For shopping delights you can visit the Beaulieu gift shops which offer everything from soft toys and stocking fillers for children, to a wide selection of

motor related items, traditional gifts and Beaulieu's own wine and festive fare. The Beaulieu attraction is open from 10am to 5pm daily, except Christmas Day. For further information visit: [www.beaulieu.co.uk](http://www.beaulieu.co.uk)

**Win tickets**

We have 3 family tickets to this great day out and to be in with a chance of winning one all you have to do is answer this simple question:

**Q: WHEN DID THE MONTAGU FAMILY FIRST COME TO PALACE HOUSE?**



To enter more competitions like this, go online to [basingstokeobserver.co.uk](http://basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

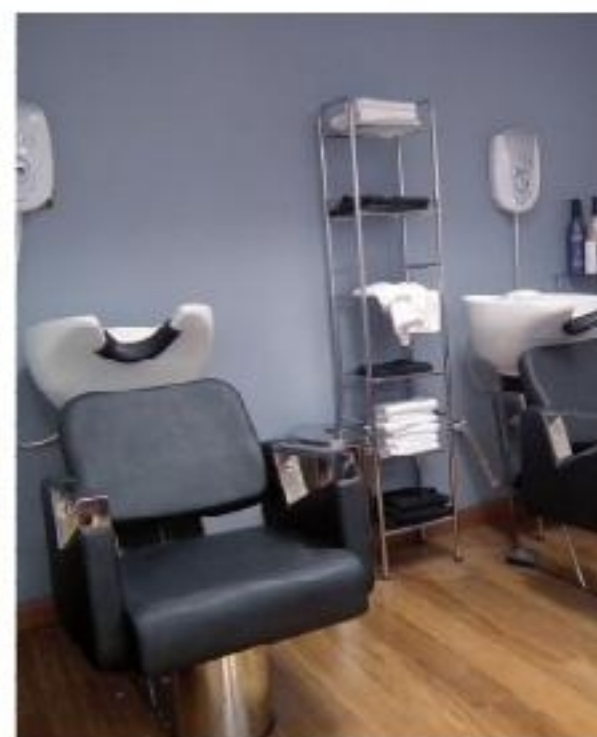
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# Green fingers

Advertising Feature

## Saving plants from the winter chill

Tips on how to prepare your plants for the winter and protect them from frost

I LOOKED out on my patio a few days ago to see a pelargonium I planted back in May coming into flower yet again, at a time when most of my summer pots have been emptied.

Despite a lot of rain, it's been a mild October, and this may lull many of us into a false sense of security about how long we leave it before offering our plants some protection from the winter chill.

As I live in a frost pocket, the pelargonium is going to come under cover soon. If you have pots of pelargoniums (bedding geraniums) which you want to enjoy next year, put them inside too, in a light, frost-free place such as a slightly heated greenhouse, a sheltered porch next to the house or an unheated spare room or conservatory, cutting them back to 10cm (4in). Don't expose them to warm central heating or they'll just wilt when you put them out next year.

Fuchsias, which lose their

By Hannah Stephenson

leaves entirely and spend winter looking like bare sticks, will need the same treatment. You'll hardly need to water them at all until growth resumes in spring, at which point you can repot them into John Innes No 2 potting compost and harden them off before placing them outside when the risk of frost has passed.

Marguerites (*Argyranthemums*) will also not stand any frost and are best dug up and potted, cut back by half and kept in a dry, cool, frost-free place that has sunlight through the winter, like a cool greenhouse. Water them sparingly to keep their roots dry until spring, when you can start to water them more frequently.

If you don't have heating in your greenhouse, insulating your more tender plants with

bubble wrap can make a huge difference, especially if you buy the fixing clips which separate the glass from the bubble wrap, creating a thin pocket of insulating air between the glass and the wrap. Alternatively, you may have to venture out on really cold nights and cover your tender specimens with horticultural fleece to keep the winter chill at bay.

Pots of tender exotics such as citrus, palms and oleander which have graced your patio in summer will need to be moved back under cover, either into a cool conservatory or frost-free greenhouse, and will need to be watered sparingly throughout the winter. If your tender plants are simply too big to move, then wrapping them in hessian or horticultural fleece may be the answer.

Hopefully, a bit of TLC over the winter months will ensure that your plants are brought back to their full glory next summer.



• (Main pic) credit PA Photo/JupiterImages Corporation. (Inset pic) dahlia flower, credit PA Photo/Thinkstockphotos.

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See our main advert on page 29





# Improve your home

Advertising Feature

# The wood life

## Installing and maintaining wooden floorboards in your home

IF YOU have period floorboards in your home, lucky you. If you don't, it doesn't mean you are doomed to be unlucky though - installing wooden flooring is easier than ever before.

Period floorboards are often hidden under carpet, tiles or lino, waiting to be discovered and restored to their former glory. This process usually means sanding with an industrial floor sander and edger, which is hard, hot and dusty work.

Although more expensive, employing someone to sand them for you is, in my opinion, well worth it. They usually include the cost of the wood stain or varnish in the price and they'll also be able to do the job quicker than you can.

Original floorboards often have modern boards mixed in where repairs have been done over the years, and painting these boards can disguise them better than using a stain or varnish (although dark stains and varnishes can work well).

You can, of course, replace the new boards with old ones, but this can be expensive and time-consuming, with no guarantee they'll match perfectly when sanded.

All that said, original floorboards are a fantastic feature in a period house or flat and there's nothing more satisfying than revealing and enjoying them after years under cover.

What if you don't have original wooden boards? Laminate flooring, which has a picture of wood printed onto boards, is an inexpensive and easy way to copy the

By Julia Gray

look. It's not as fashionable as it once was though, so instead, why not opt for wooden flooring boards that click together, with no nails, screws or glue required? This system is widely available to buy, easy to fit, it won't break the bank, and is possible for both engineered and solid wood flooring.

Engineered wood boards have a top layer of real wood, with cheaper layers underneath. The thickness of the wood layer varies, so make sure you know how thick it is and how many times, if any, it can be sanded.

A floor that can be sanded a few times is a good investment because it can take more wear and tear.

As lovely as solid wood is, engineered wood can be a more practical choice because the layers give it added strength and durability. Unlike solid wood, it shouldn't shrink and expand when exposed to moisture and changes in temperature and humidity.

Most wooden flooring comes finished, sealed and ready to fit, but you can get bare wood if you want to stain, varnish or paint it yourself, either conventional floorboards or, again, boards that click together for easy fitting.

With everything considered, getting the wooden floor of your dreams could be a bit of a battle - but the result will certainly be worth it.

## Products of the week

Tooling-up like the pros doesn't have to cost a lot. The Makita HP1631K/2 710W Percussion Drill is only £83.99 from Screwfix and can be used for all sorts of drilling tasks, including drilling into wood, steel, masonry, brick and block. Although really powerful (240V) (with a hammer-drill setting for more oomph when you need it) the drill is compact, lightweight and easy to use. The extra, rubberised handle enables you to get a really good grip when the going gets tough, something you don't get with many drills, and the carry case has a useful compartment for storing screws and drill bits.

If you're short of drill bits, check out the great-value Titan HSS Drill Bit Set (£31.99, Screwfix): a sturdy metal carry case and 170 - yes, 170 - drill bits of various sizes for plastic, metal and wood. The well-designed case keeps the bits in order and with this many to choose from, only the most dedicated DIYers will run out any time soon.



• (Main pic) A beautiful finished flooring. Picture credit: PA Photo/thinkstockphotos. (left) Picture credit: PA Photo/Handout.

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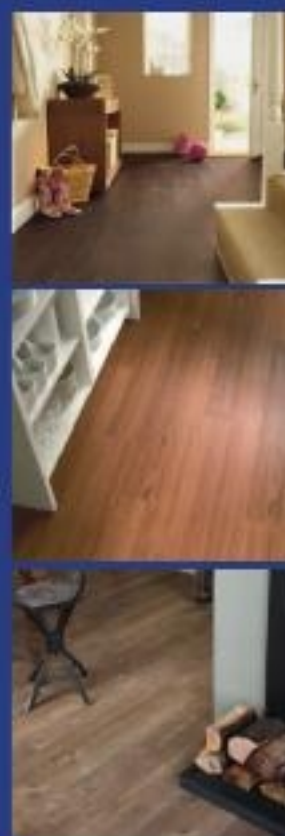
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## How-to tip

In my experience, painting new plaster before it has dried properly can be a disaster - the plaster comes off with the paint so the wall or ceiling seems ruined. The nice people at Crown Paints gave me a great tip though; use an alkali-resistant primer sealer. It really worked too, thoroughly sealing the plaster and, although I had to use a basecoat paint before the topcoat emulsion, it well and truly solved the problem of peeling paint.

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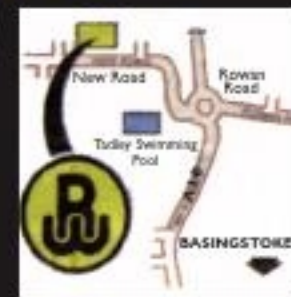
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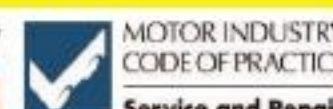
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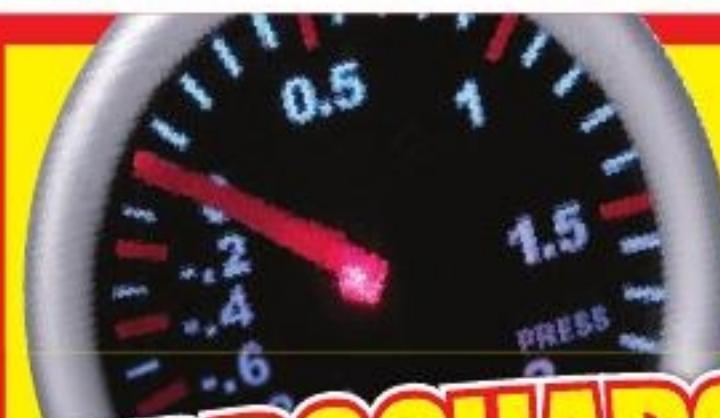
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### Bournemouth



### Coach Holidays

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Monday - Friday includes two half day tours  
10 Feb - 14 Feb ..... £125    17 Feb - 21 Feb ..... £125    24 Feb - 28 Feb ..... £125  
3 March - 7 March ..... £130    10 March - 14 March ..... £130  
17 March - 21 March ..... £130    24 March - 28 March ..... £135  
31 March - 4 April ..... £140

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9 Dec - 13 Dec ..... £182    6 Jan - 10 Jan ..... £177

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#### NEW YEAR BREAK

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### For Sale

**FORD** cvh, valve  
spring compressor,  
£10, 07771592517

**FORD**, rear number  
plate lamps fits early  
fords 10 in total, £10,  
07771592517

**FORD** granada, rear  
fog lamp to fit estate  
cars (brand new ),  
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[www.gardenerbasingstoke.com](http://www.gardenerbasingstoke.com)

### For Sale

**SHOES**, pink flat shoes never worn, £20, 01256 466163

**JACKET**, grey IN WEAR jacket never used size 14, £20, 01256 466163

**BOB** the Builder Bicycle, Never Been Used up to 5/6 years old Adjustable handlebars and Seat/stabilisers, £40, 07831947754

**COFFEE** set, 6 cups and saucers, £5, 07967305362

**DOG LEAD**, Extending dog lead for medium size dog, £8, 07967305362

**TV STAND**, Smoked glass TV Stand, suitable for TV's up to 47" Excellent condition, £30, 07967305362

**HARRY POTTER**, HARRY POTTER collectors stamps, £10, 07967305362

**MATTRESS**, Single 3ft mattress, £15, 07967305362

**DENIM** Jacket, Ladies Jacket SIZE 12, £6, 07967305362

**STUDY** Books, ESOL study books LEVEL 1, £6, 07967305362

**DANCING**, New ladies dancing shoes UK SIZE 5 EU size 37 in Gold, £12, 07967305362

**PLANTS**, 7 Spider plants home grown, 1.50 each or two for 2.50, 07967305362

**CONTAINERS**, Set of 4 containers for tea/sugar/coffee etc, £4, 07967305362

**REVOLVING** computer chair, revolving computer chair (BLACK), 07967305362

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**AA** badges, 2 old winged type, £40, 07771592517

**IKEA**, 2 kitchen chairs light oak with chrome legs excellent condition, £22, 07771592517

**VAUXHALL**, locking wheel bolts boxed with key, £10, 07771592517

**BED**, silentnight santiago memory latex divan bed and headboard. Excellent condition, £100, 07534990338

**CROSS** trainer, roger black gold cross trainer, excellent condition, £70, 07534990338

**BALLY** Boots, Chelsea leather size 36, £20, 01256334075

**KNEE** length boots size 36, brown leather, £20, 01256334075

**MAINCURE** set, Battery operated maincure set with three attachments and fragrance moisturise cream, never been use, £10, 07967305362

**WOODBURNING** stove, A 5KW Lowenholm wood burning stove that is in excellent condition. This highly efficient stove is ~2 years old and cost £900 new. Asking price is only £300! It is black in colour and has a single door. £300, 07941461080

**DOG** collar and lead, Brand new dog collar and lead (r, £6, 07967305362

**DISNEY** DVDs, A Selection of children's Disney DVDs in excellent condition, £20, 01256470765

**ANIMAL** water bottle, Animal cage water drinking bottle (Large size), £6, 07967305362

**SHOES**, pink flat shoes, £20, 01256 466163

**SKIES**, 180 cm and boots size 40, £40, 01256 466163

**FABRIC**, harry ahl lining fabric brown, £1 per meter, 01256 466163

**JACKET**, part two black and white size 14 never worn, £20, 01256 466163



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## For Sale

**CHEST OF DRAWERS**, Mahogany "Stag" 3 Drawer Chest, VGC, £65, 01256470765

**POLICE**, 2 ex police collectable wooden batons, £30, 07771592517

**DOUBLE** Bed, Divan, two drawers, very comfy and good condition., £80, 07747133731

**CABIN BED**, High cabin bed, silver frame only., £20, 07747133731

**NEW WEDDING DRESS**, Beautiful Elderberry Brides dress, still with tags on & storage hanger bag. Size 12 adjustable & slimming design., £150, 07747133731

**SOFA BED** VGC, Black / grey, washable covers, comfy., £100, 07747133731

**TOYOTA Aygo Blue** 2007, 1 owner from new, only 15600 miles, Full Service History, Metallic Blue paint, Air Conditioning, Bluetooth, iPod connection, Tax - December 2013, £3,650, 7986817749

**GAS** Cooker, Parkinson Cowan High level grill Brown, £50 ono, 01256 881783

**KORG** electribe esx 1sd, A music production sampler. Red version in very good condition., £200, 07881 917469

**SOFA** and armchair, Cream leather 3 seater sofa and armchair in good condition - buyer collect, £40 or, will separate, 01256 329729

**LEATHER** chair, and footstool (brown) buyer collects, £100ono, 01256 334075

**REVOLVING** computer chair, revolving computer chair (black), 10, 07967305362

**AL-KO** Hitchlock, Caravan hitchlock. Locks whilst towing, £20, 01189814698

**TRAILER** for car, Trailer in good condition 5ft by 3ft and 18 inches deep. Back opens to form ramp for mobility scooter, £100, 01256 326909

**CARAVAN** bits, Wastemaster, Wastemaster bag, 50Litre waterhog, wheelclamp, £10 each item, 01189814698

**HEATED** towel rail, New. Chrome. Curved rails. 1142mm x 600mm, £80, 07970693427

**OLD** upright piano, Out-of-tune, with some dud keys. Buyer collects., £40, 07770 949945

**SCRABBLE** Deluxe complete plus timer, £20, 7899771625

**SWAROVSKI** window pendants, 1 off earth. 1 off water. Unused. Boxed etc, £15 each or both for £25, 7899771625

**ELECTRIC** Mower, Qualcast Punch EP34S with grassbox. Cylinder, variable speeds in good working order £25 ONO Tel: 01256 325256

**BEDS**, Twin single trundle beds, one stores under the other when not in use, £40, 01256 418814

**ROCKING** chair, Two rocking chairs, will sell separately, £20 each, 01256 418814

**PRAM**, Graco Mirage Plus, £40, 01256 418814

**KINGSIZE** mattress, Sealy Kingsize firm mattress in excellent condition., £20, 0771772095

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## For Sale

**BOB** The Builder Bicycle, Brand New Never been Used Childs Bicycle up to 6 years old Similar to those in Argos of Fireman Sam selling for £90, 40, 07831947754

**CAR** Seat From Birth, Brand New Never Been Used, £25, 07831947754

**COFFEE** set, 6 cups and saucers, 6, 07967305362

**DOG** lead, Extending dog lead, £8, 07967305362

**TV STAND**, Smoked glass TV Stand, suitable for TV's up to 47" Excellent condition., £35, 07967305362

**HARRY** Potter, Harry Potter collectors stamps, £10, 07967305362

**MATTRESS**, Single 3ft Mattress, £15, 07967305362

**DENIM** Jacket, Ladies denim jacket, size 12., £8, 07967305362

**STUDY** Books, ESOL study books LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2, £6 each, 07967305362

**DANCING** shoes, Ladies dancing shoes UK size 5 EU size 37 in Gold, £12, 07967305362

**NEW** Dancing shoes, Ladies dancing shoes UK size 5 EU size 37 in Gold, £12, 07967305362

**SPIDER** Plants, 7 spider plants home grown, £1.50 each or two for £2.50, 07967305362

**DREAMS** Mattress Protector, Two Mattress Protectors brand new still in their wrapping cost £17.99, £8 each, 01256389490

**VINTAGE** Shoes, 1930s Silver over Kid leather. Size 4ish., £20 ono, 01256 0357866

**SINGLE** Bed Head (Gold; 3 ft), Elegant gold style metal bed head for 3ft single bed. As new condition., £25, 01256767042

## For Sale

**WOODEN** wall display shelf & drawer unit, Elegant dark wood wall display unit for small trinkets and collectables, with 3 display levels and a small drawer. About 1 ft 4 in wide by 2 ft tall and 4 in deep., £10, 01256767042

**REAL** wood veneer G Plan bedroom furniture set, G Plan real wood veneer (American Oak) bedroom range in very good to excellent condition. Double wrobe, triple robe/shelves/drawers, 2 x 3 drawer units, 2 x bedsides, 1 x corner unit, mirror for drawers to make dressing table. Robes flat pack for transport. Assembly instructions included., £450 for 8 items, 01256767042

**DOLL'S** China Coffee Set, Very unusual Melitta Coffee Filter cups and saucers etc. Facsimile 1960s. Boxed and unused. VERY unusual. Suit Collector., £25, 01256 0357866

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# Herd haunt Phantoms as Slough are stunned



• Aaron Connolly celebrates his strike with Bison team-mates (Picture by Grant King (5holephotography.co.uk))

A LATE strike from Tomas Karpov ensured Basingstoke Bison grabbed four points last weekend, with victories against the Peterborough Phantoms and Slough Jets.

Bison staged a late charge in their game against the Phantoms on Saturday, as they came back from two goals down in the final period to equalise.

Karpov made the score 3-3 with just 25 seconds of normal time remaining, forcing overtime where Karpov stepped up to win the game in the sudden death extra session, and a 4-3 win.

The Phantoms had got off to the best possible start as they

By Adam Flinn

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opened the scoring at 1:43 through Erik Piatak, and it took until the second period before Bison could reply, with a goal from Joe Rand.

Marcel Petran and Luke Ferrara both scored for the Phantoms to give them a two-goal lead, before Joe Greener started the Bison comeback at 41:02.

This paved the way for Karpov's heroics, giving Bison their first win in three games.

Sunday's match against Slough

Jets ended in a 2-0 win for Bison, although the result could just have easily been a draw.

Youngster Cameron Wynn netted the only goal of the first period, collecting Karpov's rebound at 9:55 while falling to the ice at the same time.

There was no scoring in the second period, but it was memorable for Bison forward Andy Melachrinio ending up in a fight with the Jets' Alan Lack, the former having to leave the game as a result.

The match remained at 1-0 until the final minute, when Jets brought forward netminder Kamil Jarina for an extra

attacker to try and grab a vital equaliser.

But the move failed to pay off for the Jets, and Aaron Connolly was able to take advantage of an empty net to beat the buzzer and score Bison's second goal, timed at exactly 60:00.

The weekend's results mean Bison remain third in the English Ice Hockey Premier League standings with 30 points, four behind leaders Guildford Flames.

Bison are next in action on Saturday for the home fixture with Peterborough Phantoms, and travel to Manchester Phoenix on Sunday.

## Croker's men look to keep impressive run going

BASINGSTOKE RFC are back in action on Saturday with an away tie against Barking, after a weekend off from the National League 3 London and South East.

'Stoke have had a mixed season so far and sit ninth in the standings, although they are one of three teams tied on 20 points after nine games.

Their form has improved in recent weeks, and are on a three-game home-match winning streak after a difficult start to the season.

They lost their first four games of the season, including a heavy 73-5 loss to East Grinstead in their opening match back in September.

But since October 12 'Stoke have lost just once, picking up wins against Guernsey, Thurrock, Westcombe Park and their last week's 21-13 victory at home to Hertford.

They next travel to basement side Barking on Saturday, who are yet to win in their opening nine games.

'Stoke will also face Tring, Barnes, Tonbridge Juddian and Dorking in the run-up to Christmas, and will be hoping to make further progress up the table.

## Sport Bites

### Back on track

HARTLEY Wintney got back to winning ways on Tuesday night, with a 5-0 win at home to Mole Valley in the Combined Counties Premier League.

It followed on from a disappointing 5-1 defeat to Erith Town in the second round of the FA Vase on Saturday, bringing to an end their involvement in all cup ties this season. Wintney can now concentrate on their league campaign, which resumes on Saturday at Farnham Town.

### We're Jam-ming!

WHITCHURCH United progressed to the second round of the Andover Open Cup on Tuesday night, narrowly beating South Wonston Swifts 3-2 at home. The result came after Saturday's 4-1 win against Totton and Eling, as Jim Macey's men moved up to eighth in the Wessex League Premier Division. The Jam Boys are next in action on Saturday against Fawley.

### Tadley victory

TADLEY Calleva stormed to an emphatic 5-0 win away to Laverstock and Ford on Saturday, to move into ninth in the Wessex League First Division.

It comes after a run of poor results for Calleva, and they will now be looking to get their season back on track after a promising start.

## Rose misses out on Dubai

JUSTIN Rose fell short of winning the European Tour's Race to Dubai for a second time, after finishing in a tie for 10th place at the season-ending DP World Tour Championship.

Rose was third in the Race to Dubai standings going into last weekend's tournament, but was unable to progress any higher after a strong season for the North Hampshire golfer.

He got off to a solid start last Thursday with a two under par round of 70, with three birdies and just one bogey coming on the 17th hole.

This was followed up with a competitive 67 in the second round with five birdies and one bogey, this time coming at the par four 12th.

However at this stage Rose was five behind eventual winner Henrik Stenson, and dropped another shot back in round three after posting a four under par 68.

Another round of 70 followed on the final day of the tournament, as Rose ended on 13 under par, 12 shots behind Race to Dubai winner Stenson.

Rose is currently fifth in the golf world rankings.

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Inside: Herd haunt Phantoms as Slough are stunned | Rose misses out on Dubai

# WINGER RETURN 'A HUGE BOOST'

## Holder-Spooner returns after three months on the sidelines

JASON Bristow believes the return of winger Jordace Holder-Spooner will give "a huge boost" to his squad.

Holder-Spooner returned for a 20-minute cameo in 'Stoke's 3-1 win over Ryman Premier outfit Hampton and Richmond Borough in the final qualifying round of the FA Trophy on Saturday.

The winger had been sidelined since the opening day of the campaign with a dislocated shoulder, after impressing in pre-season.

"He's a huge boost to the squad," said Bristow. "He came on and looked very sharp and lively - it was a good game for him to come into."

"And he was very unfortunate not to score - we're really pleased to have him back."

However, he added that a

By James Booker

news@basingsstokeobserver.co.uk

return to the starting eleven on Saturday at Ebbsfleet would be "too soon" for the talented wide man.

"We have to remember that he's been out for a long time, and we can't rush things," said the Dragons boss. "He's got to be patient, and so do we."

Saturday's match at Ebbsfleet will see Bristow's side look for a sixth straight win in all competitions.

They were seconds away from defeating the Kent side in the reverse fixture at the Camrose in October, only to be denied by an injury-time equaliser. The match ended 2-2.

And Bristow feels the clash will be as entertaining the second time around.

"We know a lot about them, and they're one of the better sides we have played this season," he said. "We drew 2-2 at home and were unfortunate not to win."

"They're a very, very good side. They play with good tempo, get a lot of crosses into the box and are very experienced."

"But we're on a very good run and are feeling confident about ourselves, so it should be a good game."

Last weekend's success saw Basingstoke drawn against Havant and Waterlooville - the side that inflicted a damaging 4-1 defeat on Bristow's men earlier this season.

And Bristow is hoping to settle a few scores when the two sides meet next weekend.

"The manner of that loss left a bitter taste in the mouth of players, staff supports, everyone - it's a good tie for us. It's a good chance for us to right a few wrongs and show everyone it was a one-off."



Jordace Holder-Spooner is back for Basingstoke Town after a three-month absence (Picture by Les Chase)

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